



GRAND VALLEY AND DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER BOND POLICY FAQs



Why is there a bond fee?

Each season GVDMHA operates special events like dances, fun days, and other fundraising activities. Special events like these can help keep organization costs to a minimum and help to offset the cost of hockey registration fees for your child. In turn, GVDMHA relies on the efforts of all families to ensure that these events are a success. The bond program has been introduced to encourage Association members to get involved with GVDMH. Many hours of volunteer work is needed to operate a quality hockey program in Grand Valley.

How much is the volunteer bond?

The bond is \$200.00 per family; per season.

How many points do I need to complete this season?

Every family will need to complete 10 points.

How can I find out how many bond points I have completed? Who is tracking my bond?

Each time you participate in a bond earning event, you will record the event and time on your **Volunteer Bond Tracking Form** and have it initialed by a member of the executive, your team coach, team manager or someone in charge of the event you're helping with. When you have completed 10 bond points, you will be required to submit your tracking sheet to your team manager or the bond director to receive your bond cheque back. YOU are responsible to report your own volunteer bond requirement to GVDMH. The **Volunteer Bond Tracking Form** is available here on the GVDMH website or by contacting the Bond Director and MUST be used to record/submit your volunteer bond points by April 1st

If I am only able to complete a portion of the bond, will you still cash my cheque?

All families must complete a total of 10 points to fulfill their bond agreement and receive their bond cheque back. This is not a pro-rated program.

Can I work off my bond next year?

No, we need volunteers every season, we are working only for this season. Once this season closes at the AGM, we move onto a new season.

I don't have time to volunteer/I am too busy to volunteer; do I have to participate in the bond program?

No, you can choose to opt out of the bond program, just complete the **Bond Submission Form** and select that you wish to "opt out" of the program and submit your cheque in the amount of \$200.00.

Ten points/hours of volunteer time seems very difficult to complete! What if my family doesn't have time to volunteer?

It is actually very easy to accumulate 10 hours of volunteer time throughout the year. You can work off your bond hours before the season begins as fundraising opportunities and events continue through the summer months.

What if I am not out-going and don't like selling things?

There are lots of volunteer opportunities that are behind-the-scenes and can be well-suited for your own strengths and talents. The Fundraiser Director always needs a lending hand. Are you good at organizing? Help out the Tournament Director with scheduling and organizing a tournament (better yet, offer to be the Tournament Director). Do you prefer physical hands-on work? Help out with the bottle drive or setting up/taking down tables after Hockey Day.

Can my whole family participate and help me earn my volunteer points?

Yes! As long as each volunteer is 14 years of age or older, you can recruit your high school student, grandparents, or other family members to help you collect your 10 points. Sign up to volunteer together at the same event and make it a fun family day!

What if I have a few extra volunteer receipts at the end of the year and my friend needs a few to complete their 10 points? Can I give away my receipts to help out other hockey families if I have extra?

Points are earned per family (Parents, Guardians, Siblings over the age of 14 years), point sharing or selling is not permitted.

What if I only earn 5 points by April 1st and there are no duties left?

If you have offered your time throughout the year, it is highly unlikely that there will not be enough duties to go around. If it is approaching April and you need a volunteer opportunity, talk to an executive member to see if arrangements can be made to volunteer to help with the awards day, or the AGM to complete your points. The best way to avoid this situation is to start early!

I already pay a lot for my child to play hockey. Why do I need to volunteer my time as well?

As with many organizations, GVDMH is entirely run by volunteers who are also paying the full registration price for their child(ren) to play hockey. Most hockey organizations and other sports organizations near Grand Valley also have volunteer bond programs, and they work! Many of our executive members are also on-ice volunteers, coaches, managers, trainers, run the fundraising events, and do the behind-the-scenes organizing (and of course are also busy parents, run a household, and work full-time as well). A great deal of work goes into making hockey available to the kids in our community, and this work needs to be spread out among all of our hockey families. Plus, it is fun to get involved!

How will I know what volunteer duties are available? How can I make sure that I get the duties that I prefer to do?

Your team manager will be in charge of the team-related duties and will communicate about team-related events such as tournaments. Emails from the bond director prior to opportunities, our GVDMH website and facebook **Grand Valley and District Minor Hockey Association** page will also post volunteer opportunities which will allow families to sign up early so they get the duties they prefer. Better yet, offer to be a Team Manager or put your hat in the ring to run for one of our Executive Positions and earn your 10 points throughout the year without needing to sign up for the per-credit duties.

I have a specific skill/talent/hobby that I would like to contribute to minor hockey; can this be counted toward my volunteer hours? (e.g. I own a sign-making/printing company and can design/print raffle tickets, I like to bake cupcakes and will donate them to Hockey Day, I am a professional photographer, etc.).

If you think you have an idea for a volunteer contribution that will help the organization and make a difference, we want to hear about it! Contact a member of the executive with your idea to seek approval in counting it for your volunteer hours. The association must approve the volunteer work prior to undertaking the initiative.

My child is in the Preschool/Initiation Program how can I collect my bond points?

The Preschool and Initiation Programs need many parent on-ice helpers, particularly in the first few months when the players are still learning how to get up after a fall. If you have skating experience and want to be an on-ice helper for the younger players, each hour will count toward your bond hours (note that helpers must be pre-arranged with the coach first and be rostered officially with the OMHA, must wear a helmet, and have their Respect in Sport Parent training course completed). Additionally, GVDMH has a Hockey Day in Grand Valley and several tournaments, along with other community events that need volunteers throughout the year. If you are not sure how to get involved, just ask!

Where can I get more information on the bond program?

Information about the bond program can be found on our website www.gvmh.ca. If you still require assistance you can contact our Bond Director.